



# Message from the chair

**As Chair of the Public Safety and Protection Committee, I want to take this opportunity to encourage all taxi drivers to get more involved in shaping the future of the trade in Bristol. Your voices and experiences are invaluable in ensuring that policies and decisions reflect the needs of those working in this city every day.**

One of the key ways to engage is through Bristol's Taxi Forum, where you can discuss industry concerns, share feedback, and work collaboratively with the Council and other stakeholders. Your participation helps drive positive change and ensures that your perspectives are heard. More information about the Taxi Forum can be found on our website and I strongly encourage drivers around the city to get involved.

Beyond the forum, there are other ways to engage with the democratic process. The Transport and Connectivity Policy Committee regularly discusses issues affecting Bristol's roads including planned changes which I know affects the work of all drivers in our city. Submitting public forum statements or questions to these meetings is a great way to ensure that councillors and decision-makers are aware of the challenges you face and the improvements you want to see. By taking part, you can help shape a fairer and more effective transport system for both drivers and passengers.



You can find out more about meetings and how to put your views forward on our website.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all and ensuring that the taxi trade remains a strong and valued part of Bristol's transport network.

**CLlr Sarah Classick**

Chair of the Public Safety and Protection Committee

# PQ article about unlicensed drivers

**I have written before about the issue of drivers either failing to inform the police who was driving at the time of a traffic offence, lying about who was driving, or allowing their Taxi or Private Hire Vehicles to be driven by an unlicensed driver. I'd like to share with you some cases which have been to Court in the last few months.**

- A PHV was caught doing 36 mph in a 30 mph area at Avonmouth Road. The vehicle owner named someone we did not believe to be the driver and we rejected his nomination. He was found guilty of Failing to furnish the name of a driver at the time of an offence and sentenced at Court to 6 DVLA points, £553 fine + £331 costs. South Gloucestershire Council sent the licence holder on a driving assessment.
- A PHV was caught doing 55mph in a 40mph area at The Portway. The vehicle owner nominated a person as driving at the time of the offence, who was not a PHD. He was found guilty of permitting that person to drive his PHV without insurance and was sentenced at Court to 6 DVLA points, £480 fine + £182 costs. South Gloucestershire Council are yet to take action.
- A PHV was caught doing 38mph in a 30mph area on the A369 North Somerset. The vehicle owner nominated a person driving at the time of the offence, who was not licensed as a PHD and not insured. He was found guilty of permitting that person to drive his PHV without insurance and was sentenced at Court to 6 DVLA points, £660 fine + £354 costs. The South Gloucestershire Council Licensing Subcommittee revoked his PHD licence.
- A PHV was caught doing 49mph in a 40mph area on the M32. The vehicle owner named someone we did not believe to be the driver and we rejected his nomination. He was found guilty of Failing to furnish the name of a driver at the time of an offence and sentenced at Court to a 6-month disqualification, a fine of £180 and costs of £472. The North Somerset Council Licensing Committee revoked the PHD licence.
- A PHV was caught doing 38mph in a 30mph on the A39 at Farmborough. The vehicle owner named someone we did not believe to be the driver and we gave him a chance to consider his position. He decided to stick with the person he had named, who was not a licensed PHD and we believed did not exist. The Court did not believe the nomination either and he was sentenced at Court to a fine of £1000 and costs of £510 and 8 DVLA points. South Gloucestershire Council issued a licence suspension, PHD penalty points and completion of a Learning and Suitability session.
- A HCD nominated unlicensed people as driving his HC on 5 occasions. He admitted lying about the latest offence, and it appeared that he had also lied about the other times too. The Bristol City Council Public Safety and Protection Committee revoked and refused his HCD, HC and PHD licences.
- A PHD was convicted of Failing to furnish the name and address of a driver at the time of a speeding incident on the M5 (79 mph). Given 6 DVLA points and £660 fine + costs. Following another speeding offence on the M4, the PHD nominated an unlicensed driver. The police case is ongoing, but the Bristol City Council Public Safety and Protection Committee revoked his vehicle licence and refused to grant his driver's licence for these and other matters.
- A HCD allowed his unlicensed brother to drive his HC. His brother then let a mobile phone distract him from driving. As a result The Bristol City Council Public Safety and Protection Committee suspended the HCD for one month.

All drivers who have their licences revoked or refused are placed on the National Register, so if they apply to other Councils, the action taken will be known to that Licensing Authority to assist in deciding whether to grant a licence.

In Avon and Somerset Police we have about another 30 cases going through the system with a number of drivers due at Court in the next three months.

Other police services also deal with taxi and PH drivers for these matters. For example, in the last 10 months, South Wales Police have taken action which has resulted in :

- 115 DVLA points
- 3 drivers who were disqualified from driving by the Court.
- £24,000 in fines and costs
- 13 taxi and PH licences revoked by Councils in their police area.

The key points to note from the above are :

- Do not lie about who was driving.
- Do not let an unlicensed driver use your vehicle for any purpose.

The Councils take dishonesty matters very seriously. I have seen that Licensing Committees can be forgiving of minor traffic offences, but if you lie about them, or don't declare them to the Council – then you can expect action to be taken.

It is also a public safety risk to allow people who do not have a HC or PH licence to drive your vehicle. If your unlicensed wife/friend/visitor is using it, then that needs to stop NOW.

Have you told the Council about your education courses and tickets ?

You do not want to lose your licence because of lying about a speeding offence !

Have a safe shift!

**PC Quinton**

Taxi Compliance Officer, Avon and Somerset Constabulary

## Operators

**If you hold an operators licence with us conditions attached to your licence require you to send your register of drivers and vehicles on the first working day of each month.**

You must also provide us with a basic disclosure for each company director on an annual basis, this is regardless of the length of your operator licence. If any of these directors are licensed drivers, then we can accept their subscription to the DBS update service.

## Licence fee

**The Private Hire and Hackney Carriage application and renewal fees increased in April 2025.**

**Our website has been updated with the new fees on the relevant pages**

## Vehicle licence plates

**Since May 2023 front and side plates no longer have an expiry date, and these should be retained for as long as the vehicle is licensed by us. For renewals issued after May 2024 you will only receive a new rear plate, if you don't keep the front or side plates, you will need to report these as lost, and pay for a replacement.**

# Park Street, Queens Road and the Triangle

**There are changes proposed to Queens Road, Park Street and the Triangle as part of a number of wider changes within the City. You can find further information on the Travel West website.**

The major change to the network proposed is the closing of Park St and College Green as a through route via a bus gate at the top of Park Street and a bus lane at the bottom of College Green. General traffic will still be able to access Park Street and College Green via St Georges Road.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles will be permitted to use the bus gate and bus lane. Some taxi ranks have also been moved as part of the proposals, and there is a new rank proposed on Triangle South.

If you have any queries please contact: [email](#)



## New enforcement camera coming to East Street, Bedminster

As many taxi drivers will know, East Street (between Cannon Street and Dalby Avenue) has long been a pedestrian cycle zone between the hours of 7am – 7pm. This is currently enforced by the police and the council. However, we are planning to change the way that restrictions are enforced, due to an unacceptable number of collisions in recent years, many of them involving pedestrians and cyclists. The changes will include a new enforcement camera.

We are looking at different options for how this camera will be used in practice. For example, this may entail stricter enforcement of the current restrictions, or goods deliveries restricted to a specific time. Bristol City Council officers have been speaking with these businesses to help refine how it will work in practice. Once this has been finalised, there will be a statutory consultation period, which will be publicised in the area at a later date. If the project passes the consultation phase, it is likely to be installed later this year or in 2026.

# Cycling

**You spend a lot of time on the roads along with other road users such as buses, cyclists and scooters.**

**It's really important that everyone using our roads feels safe. We are aware that cyclists can feel especially vulnerable as they are far more exposed than people in vehicles.**

**Professional drivers, including taxi drivers, should be setting a high standard for safe and responsible driving, particularly when sharing road space with vulnerable users.**

Don't forget the Highway Code requires the following

- It is often difficult to see motorcyclists and cyclists, especially when they are waiting alongside you, coming up from behind, coming out of or moving off from junctions, at roundabouts, overtaking you or filtering through traffic. Always look out for them before you emerge from a junction; they could be approaching faster than you think.
- Do not turn at a junction if to do so would cause the cyclist going straight ahead to stop or swerve, just as you would do with a motor vehicle.
- When turning right across a line of slow-moving or stationary traffic, look out for and give way to cyclists or motorcyclists on the inside of the traffic you are crossing. Be especially careful when moving off, turning, and when changing direction or lane. Be sure to check mirrors and blind spots carefully.
- Give motorcyclists, cyclists, horse riders, horse drawn vehicles and pedestrians walking in the road (for example, where there is no pavement), at least as much room as you would when overtaking a car (see Rules 162 to 167). Drivers should take extra care and give more space when overtaking motorcyclists, cyclists, horse riders, horse drawn vehicles and

pedestrians in bad weather (including high winds) and at night. If the rider looks over their shoulder it could mean that they intend to pull out, turn right or change direction. Give them time and space to do so.

- On narrow sections of road, on quiet roads or streets, at road junctions and in slower-moving traffic, cyclists may sometimes ride in the centre of the lane, rather than towards the side of the road. It can be safer for groups of cyclists to ride two abreast in these situations. Allow them to do so for their own safety, to ensure they can see and be seen. Cyclists are also advised to ride at least a door's width or 1 metre from parked cars for their own safety.

On narrow sections of road, horse riders may ride in the centre of the lane. Allow them to do so for their own safety to ensure they can see and be seen.

Motorcyclists, cyclists, horse riders and horse drawn vehicles may suddenly need to avoid uneven road surfaces and obstacles such as drain covers or oily, wet or icy patches on the road. Give them plenty of room and pay particular attention to any sudden change of direction they may have to make.

If we get complaints about drivers acting unsafely or inconsiderately in relation to cyclists or other vulnerable road users these will be taken especially seriously and may result in action being taken on your licence.

You can refresh your knowledge on the [Highway Code Website](#)



# Littering

**As members of the taxi trade you spend a large amount of your time on the streets of Bristol, we're aware a number of you have concerns about the cleanliness of our streets.**

As members of the taxi trade you spend a large amount of your time on the streets of Bristol, we're aware a number of you have concerns about the cleanliness of our streets.

You'll be pleased to hear that the Council are working to tackle environmental crimes such as littering in Bristol to make our streets clean and tidy for everyone. Help us to keep the city clean by disposing of litter responsibly and utilising litter bins, or taking rubbish home when they're not available or full.

Last year over 3,500 people were fined for environmental crimes. You can find more information on our [website](#)

# Dash Cameras

**If you use a dashcam and are attending a vehicle inspection check, you must make sure this is turned off, or the power supply is removed before your vehicle inspection begins. Filming is not permitted during the vehicle inspection, if you don't turn off the dashcam the vehicle inspection check may not be able to go ahead.**

PC Quinton has recommended that cradles and dash cameras are not placed within Zone A of the windscreen (the strip above the steering wheel of 290mm centred on the wheel). Putting them in this area could mean a police ticket or prosecution. Do not put over or above airbags. Mount your device low down on your windscreen to the far right to maximise your view of the road. If this isn't possible, opt for the lowest point in the middle of the windscreen.



## DBS Update service

The requirement for all drivers to sign up to the Update Service came in in August 2021, when the current Taxi Policy was adopted.

Most drivers have signed up and maintained their DBS Update Service subscription and kept the DBS certificate used to sign up. The certificate used to sign up must be kept as you may need to provide this to us, or another local authority you are licensed by.

If you've not already signed up to the DBS Update Service, or you have let your subscription lapse, or you've lost your DBS certificate you'll need to complete a further DBS check and sign up to the DBS Update Service with the new DBS certificate, and we'll not be able to renew your licence until you have done so.

When you renew your subscription to the DBS Update Service you'll receive an email from our DBS supplier, CBS asking you to confirm your subscription. If you tell CBS that you have renewed your DBS Update Service, they'll let us know that you've renewed your subscription, and we shouldn't need to request this information at renewal. If you don't tell CBS we're not able to check your DBS, and when you renew your licence we'll need to ask you for evidence that you've signed up to the DBS Update Service, which may mean that your renewal takes longer.

## What would you like to see?

**The Licensing Team aim to improve communication between the Council and the Trade.**

Remember, this is your newsletter! If you have something you think would be useful, or would like to see included in future issues, or you have a good news story or information you want to share, please get in touch via our [contact page](#) you will need to select the 'other' category: